

Department of Defense Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care

Col Christine Bader, USAF

Executive Secretary

Task Force on the Future of Military Health
Care



Overview

- Purpose
- Congressional Charge
- Task Force Members
- Task Force Activities
- Public Meetings/Site Visits Held
- Next Public Meeting
- Upcoming Milestones



Purpose

- Update the Defense Health Board on the status of DoD Future of Military Health Care Task Force efforts as of the end of March 2007



Congressional Charge to Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care

- FY07 National Defense Authorization Act, § 711 (c)(1)
 - Submit final report to the SECDEF by December 2007
 - Make assessments of, and recommendations for, sustaining the military health care services being provided to members of Armed Forces, retirees, and their families
 - Statute listed 10 elements for study
 - Provide interim report to SECDEF, SASC and HASC by 31 May 2007
 - To describe activities of Task Force
 - Interim findings and recommendations on beneficiary and Government cost-sharing structure, particularly under pharmacy benefits program



Members of Task Force

- Department of Defense Members

- Gen John D. W. Corley, USAF (co-chair) Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force
- MG Nancy Adams, USA (Retired) Former Commander Tripler Army Medical Center and Former Acting Director, TRICARE Regional Office, North
- RADM John Mateczun, USN Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy
- Lt Gen James Roudebush, USAF Surgeon General of the Air Force
- Maj Gen Joseph Kelley, USAF, the Joint Staff Surgeon
- Shay Assad, Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Office of the Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
- Gen Richard B. Myers, USAF (Retired) Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Members of Task Force

- Non Department of Defense Members
 - Dr. Gail Wilensky (co-chair), Senior Fellow at Project HOPE; elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and its governing council
 - Robert J. Henke, Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services
 - Robert F. Hale, Senior Fellow at the Logistics Management Institute and member of the Defense Business Board; formerly Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller
 - MG Robert Smith, USAR (Retired), Past President of the Reserved Officers Association and Former Global Controller, Ford Motor Company
 - Larry Lewin, Founder of The Lewin Group and currently Executive Consultant on Clinical and Technology Effectiveness, Health Promotion
 - Dr. Robert Galvin, Director of Global Healthcare, General Electric



Activities of Task Force

- Gather Information
 - Task Force meetings and visits
 - Direct and written testimony
 - Subject matter expert briefings
 - Review of reports and studies
- Draft and Submit Interim Report



Activities of the Task Force

- Admin Meeting
 - 21 Dec 06
- Public Meetings Held
 - 16 Jan 07
 - 6, 20 Feb 07
 - 7, 28 Mar 07
- Information Visit
 - 20 Mar 07 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) on its health plan operation



16 Jan 07 Public Meeting

- USD (P&R) and ASD (HA) discussed the military health care system and background for statute directing establishment of task force
- Informational briefings
 - Current MHS financing
 - MHS cost drivers
 - Overview of Defense Health Program
 - Military health care system developments, immediate future and long view perspective



6 Feb 07 Public Meeting

- Informational briefing regarding Pharmacy Benefits Program, including cost sharing structure by Pharmaceutical Ops Directorate
- Informational briefing on managed care contracts from Health Plan Ops
- MG Smith (Ret) back-brief on discussions with advocacy group representatives



20 Feb 07 Public Meeting

- Direct Care System Overview by Surgeons General and Joint Staff Surgeon
 - Military health care system
 - Deployed medicine
- Back-brief from task force co-chairs regarding meetings with members/staff from SASC and HASC



7 Mar 07 Public Meeting

- Presentations from industry experts and beneficiary group representatives regarding cost sharing structure to sustain military health benefits over the long term
 - Focus on industry practices for management of health care with emphasis on pharmacy aspects



28 Mar 07 Public Meeting

- Presentations by regional TRICARE contractors on managed care support contractors
- Included beneficiary and Government cost sharing structure, and assessments of operations – quality, costs, efficiencies, etc.



20 Mar 07 United Mine Workers Association of America (UMWA) Information Visit

- A Group of Task Force members received informational briefing from UMWA regarding management and operation of its health fund for its beneficiaries, with emphasis on the pharmacy benefit and outreach programs for UMWA retirees



9-10 Apr San Antonio Visit

- Commanders briefing on military markets
- Elicit military health care benefits feedback from spouses, officers (O-5 and below), Guard/Reserve, retirees, and enlisted
 - Panel formats



Upcoming Milestones

- Interim Report
 - Final Interim Report due to SECDEF, SASC and HASC by 31 May 2007

